

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15-18 are amended. The Abstract and title are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Cheung and Nguyen at the interview held June 7, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the title. To obviate this objection, the title is amended to recite Soccer Game Method For Use In Game Apparatus, Involves Recognizing Areas Pertaining To Power Of Character Group, Based On Calculated Arrival Times Of Characters Up To Sample Points.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for failing to be in narrative form. The Abstract is amended to be in narrative form so as to obviate this objection. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the title and the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-3, 5, 11, 15 and 16 for containing various informalities. Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 15 and 16 are amended substantially according to the Office Action's recommendations, so as to obviate the objections to the claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §101 asserting that the rejected claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 17 and 18 are amended to overcome the rejection. Claim 1 is amended to recite "outputting through display and/or voice," so as to obviate this rejection. Claim 17 is amended to recite a computer-readable storage medium that receives the carrier wave. Claim 18 is similarly amended to

recite computer-readable storage medium. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under §101 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 are amended substantially according to the Office Action's recommendations, to obviate this rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13, 15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rupert (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,258); rejects claims 3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rupert as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Ariano (U.S. Patent No. 3,874,669); rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rupert as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Murata (U.S. Patent No. 5,735,743); and rejects claims 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rupert as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Takatsuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,520). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Rupert fails to disclose or suggest calculating a time needed for each of the plurality of characters to arrive at each of the set plurality of sample points respectively from a position of each of the plurality of characters at a time after each of the plurality of characters has maintained a current moving condition for a predetermined time period as a starting point, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recite in independent claim 16.

Rupert, at col. 4, lines 58-64, discloses a current position of an individual player, used in a Voronoi division. Rupert, at col. 6, lines 60-65, discloses a forecasted future position of the player might be used, wherein the forecast is based on the player's current position and current momentum. Rupert further discloses that once the game is assessed, the field is divided into Voronoi cells. The cells might be defined as the collection of points closest to

their respective sites located at player locations. And in some embodiments, the metric is a weighted and/or non-linear metric of distance and/or other variables. However, Rupert fails to disclose the power distribution of groups of characters, and merely discloses polygon regions that are functions of distance.

Although Rupert discloses that the Voronoi cells may be a function of other variables, Rupert fails to disclose or suggest calculating a time needed for each of the plurality of characters to arrive at each of the set plurality of sample points respectively from a position of each of the plurality of characters at a time after each of the plurality of characters has maintained a current moving condition for a predetermined time period as a starting point, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 16.

With respect to claim 16, the Office Action asserts that the secondary reference, Takatsuka, cures the deficiencies of Rupert.

However, Takatsuka fails to disclose or suggest calculating a time needed for each of the plurality of characters to arrive at each of the set plurality of sample points respectively from a position of each of the plurality of characters at a time after each of the plurality of characters has maintained a current moving condition for a predetermined time period as a starting point, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 16. Therefore, Takatsuka fails to cure the deficiencies of Rupert.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 16 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-15, and 17-18 depend from claim 1, and therefore are patentable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:EXC/mab

Attachment:
Replacement Abstract

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